

Region 6 Healthcare Preparedness Newsletter

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Newsletter Merger!

In an effort to streamline communications around health preparedness we have merged the King County Healthcare Coalition Monthly Update newsletter with the Region 6 Health Preparedness Newsletter. Now, all relevant health preparedness information, upcoming meetings, upcoming trainings and conferences and current events regarding health preparedness are available for you in one publication. We hope you find the new format useful and informative!



New Guidance on Community Mitigation Strategies for Pandemic Influenza

A message from Public Health – Seattle & King County

On Feb 1, 2007, CDC released new national guidance on recommended community strategies for pandemic influenza mitigation in the United States Available at:

www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/community/community_mitigation.pdf

The guidance is qualified as interim, and intended to be updated as new information becomes available. It provides significantly more detail and specificity than the previous guidance on this topic, and includes a new scheme to grade pandemic severity, discussions of rationale for recommended interventions, limitations in available data, and potential adverse impacts of recommended measures. You are encouraged to review it carefully, as it has profound implications for all sectors of the community, including health care, business, schools, and individuals and families. All healthcare providers are also encouraged to discuss pandemic preparedness with your patients, with particular attention to identifying persons with special needs and initiating plans to address those needs in advance should extraordinary measures be implemented locally. A brief summary of key points follows.

Four key interventions are proposed that would be implemented depending on the severity of the pandemic.

1. Isolation and treatment with antiviral medications of all persons with confirmed or probable pandemic influenza. Isolation may occur in the home or healthcare setting, depending on the severity of an individual's illness and /or the current capacity of the healthcare infrastructure.
2. Voluntary home quarantine of members of households with confirmed or probable influenza case(s) and consideration of combining



this intervention with the prophylactic use of antiviral medications, providing sufficient quantities of effective medications exist and that a feasible means of distributing them is in place.

3. Dismissal of students from school (including public and private schools as well as colleges and universities) and school-based activities and closure of childcare programs, coupled with protecting children and teenagers through social distancing in the community to achieve reductions of out-of-school social contacts and community mixing.

4. Use of social distancing measures to reduce contact between adults in the community and workplace, including, for example, cancellation of large public gathering and alteration of workplace environments and schedules to decrease social density and preserve a healthy workplace to the greatest extent possible without disrupting essential services.

These measures could be used alone or in combination, but for severe pandemics (and for planning purposes) would all be recommended for up to 12 weeks or for the duration of the pandemic locally. For less severe pandemics, a shorter period of implementation may be adequate to achieving public health benefit.

It is recommended interventions are activated when a laboratory-confirmed human pandemic influenza case cluster is reported in a State or region (as appropriate) and there is evidence of community transmission. Defining the proper "geospatial-temporal boundary" for this cluster is complex and should recognize that our connectedness as communities goes beyond spatial proximity and includes ease, speed, and volume of travel between geopolitical jurisdictions

Adverse impacts: The major areas of concern derive from the recommendation to dismiss children from school and closure of childcare programs. The concerns include 1) the economic impact to families; 2) the potential disruption to all employers, including businesses and governmental agencies; 3) access to essential goods and services; and 4) the disruption of school-related services (e.g., school meal programs). Other interventions, such as home isolation and voluntary home quarantine of members of households with ill persons, would also contribute to increased absenteeism from work and affect both business operations and employees. These issues are of particular concern for vulnerable populations who may be disproportionately impacted.

The guidance includes appendices with interim planning guides for businesses and other employers, childcare programs, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, faith-based and community organizations, and individuals and families. Advice for individuals and families includes the recommendation to have a reserve of at least a two-week supply of water and food; however, if the pandemic is severe, community disruption may last for a longer period.

King County Healthcare Coalition

The Healthcare Coalition is a network of healthcare organizations and providers that are committed to coordinating their emergency preparedness and response activities. The purpose of the Coalition is to develop and maintain a comprehensive system that assures coordination, effective communications, and optimal use of available health resources in response to emergencies and disasters. The Healthcare Coalition is comprised of over 45 member and partner

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healthcare organizations and agencies.

Current priorities include pandemic flu and surge planning, strengthening the governance structure through the creation of the Executive Council, recruiting more Coalition members from non-hospital providers, and developing a sustainable organization.

Healthcare Coalition staff contacts:

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www.metrokc.gov/health/coalition/index.htm

Healthcare Coalition Updates

Outlined below are current updates for all of the Healthcare Coalition committees and workgroups. Please consult the Healthcare Coalition website for additional background. The Healthcare Coalition meeting calendar for 2007 is also available on the website:

www.metrokc.gov/health/coalition/index.htm

Ambulatory Care Preparedness Work Group (ACPWG)

Staff contact—Aimee Welch, PHSKC at 206-205-4145

- The workgroup has completed its Contingency Plans for the Ambulatory Care Response to Pandemic Influenza.
- Aimee continues to collect staffing numbers for antiviral distribution pandemic flu planning efforts.
- The group will begin to debrief challenges resulting from the recent King County Storms to identify areas of needed technical assistance, barriers to business continuity and prioritizing resource gaps.

Critical Care Work Group

Staff contacts —Dr. Lewis Robinson, PH at 206-205-5091 Dr.

Mark Tonelli, UWMC, 206-543-3166 tonelli@u.washington.edu

- In the next several months the group will tackle standardized critical care surge strategies and managing scarce critical care resources during a disaster.

Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

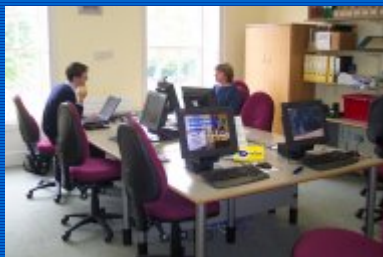
Staff contacts— Cynthia Dold, PH at 206-205-0456, Danica Mann

-Hospital Training & Exercises, 206-947-5565

- The hospitals will be participating in Evacuation workshops March 27, 28 and 29, 2007. These 1-day workshops will be held in each emergency response zone. Emergency Managers, Fire partners, and Assisted Living Facilities will be invited to participate. Please contact Lydia Ortega to register: Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Exercise - May 30, 2007
All hospitals in King County/Region 6 will be participating in an evacuation exercise in May based on an earthquake. For more information on this exercise please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org
- This month the hospitals will be reviewing the transportation section of the plan.
- Hospitals that are interested in being reimbursed through HRSA dollars for trainings, exercises and for real life events needs to submit their 2006 Reimbursement forms to Peggi Shapiro at WSHA by February 28, 2007. If you have questions about filling out the forms please contact Danica Mann.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Ambulatory Care Meeting: February 7, 2007 7:30AM to 9AM
- Healthcare Coalition Coordinating Team Meeting: February 7, 2007 1:30PM to 3PM
- Hospital Strategy Group: February 8, 2007 7:30AM to 10AM
- Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee: February 22, 2007, 7:30AM to 10AM
- Legal Workgroup: February 22, 2007 2PM to 4PM
- RMRC Software Workgroup Meeting: February 26, 2007 12:30PM to 2PM



Infectious Disease Workgroup

Lead- Jeff Duchin, MD, PH (206) 296-4814

- The Infectious Disease Workgroup held its first meeting on September 7, 2006. Representatives from seven Coalition hospitals attended the meeting. Dr. Duchin led the discussion and focused on pandemic flu planning and infection control issues. The group will continue to meet to discuss infection control, antiviral drug use, and other relevant topics.

Legal Work Group

Staff contact – Amy Eiden, PH at 206-206-8969

- The workgroup has reviewed a recommended model procedure for delivery of Health Officer Isolation Orders to hospitalized persons.
- The group is conducting an analysis of legal issues that could arise during a large scale emergency response. This work is being coordinated with a cross-jurisdictional legal workgroup that includes representation from state agencies and other counties.
- A review of the draft “Bench Book” was also completed recently by the workgroup. The bench book is for use by Superior Court Judges during a public health emergency. It is being developed by the King County Superior Court and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

Medical Directors Committee

Staff contact – Dr. Jeff Duchin, PH at 206-296-4814

- The Medical Directors have discussed potential medical resource distribution approaches, surge models and Pandemic Flu employee training.
- Dr. Kathryn Koelemay and Dr. Jeff Duchin have developed a series of PowerPoint presentations entitled:
 - *Preparing for Pandemic Flu: What our Healthcare Workers Need to Know*
 - *Healthcare Worker Ability & Willingness during Pandemic Flu,*
 - *ICS for Clinicians: What we Need to Know and Why We Need to Know It.*
- The presentations can be utilized for training healthcare workers. They are available for review at the link below:
www.metrokc.gov/health/hccoalition/presentations.htm

Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC)

Staff contact – Allison Schletzbaum, 206-731-6213

- Currently, the Operational Plan for the RMRC is under revision in response to the lessons learned from the December 2006 Windstorm.
- The Telecommunication Service Priority project continues and applications are under development for many hospitals and critical partners. The final regional application will be submitted at the end of February and if not all hospitals and partners have completed their application, we will begin a second group of applications to be submitted in the spring.
- The Request for Proposal for the RMRC Incident Command Software was distributed to vendors in mid-January. Their deadline for submission of their proposals is mid-February. Voting members of the software selection workgroup have already been identified, but we are looking forward to receiving feedback from any community partners interesting in offering their opinions. Software demos will take place in early April.



Alternate Facilities Project

Project Manager - Tony Cebollero, PH at 206-205-8621, Dr. Lewis Robinson 206-205-5091

- A "special needs" shelter was established and staffed by Public Health personnel in collaboration with the staff of Bellevue Community College and a nursing home which evacuated many of its residents to the location. Dr. Robinson, together with Richard Marks,
- Tony is reviewing potential sites for alternate care facilities and medication/vaccine dispensing centers. He recently met with representatives from Seattle Office of Emergency Management, Fire, and the Red Cross to discuss collaboration in establishing an Alternate Care Facility in Seattle.
- A detailed Alternate Care site selection criteria checklist has been completed. This will help to facilitate a more effective search for possible Alternate Care sites throughout the County.
- Tony is also developing a master template of administrative and logistical supplies that would be required to make each ACF functional.

King County Call Center Project

Project Manager, Joe Cropley

Washington Poison Control, 206-517-2383

- Joe recently met with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to begin work with cross regional partners.
- The latest King County storms generated a surge of carbon monoxide related calls to the Poison Center. The lessons learned from these storms are being applied to call center coordination planning.



CDC Rates Hospital Bioterrorism

Preparedness Report from the Center for Infectious Disease, Research and Policy (CIDRAP)

December 11, 2006 - Soon after the terrorist attacks of 2001, Congress approved emergency funds to teach hospital staffs how to recognize and respond to bioterrorism attacks, and today the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released its first report on those efforts.

The survey revealed that teaching hospitals were better trained for handling bioterrorism than other types of hospitals. One unexpected finding was that staff physicians were far more likely than residents to have received training (75.1% versus 39.3%), a gap that was wider in non-teaching hospitals than in teaching hospitals.

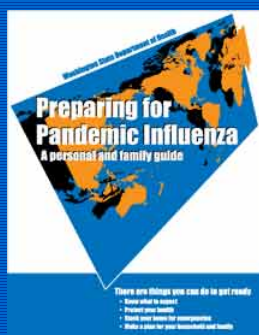
"This study presents baseline data for terrorism preparedness training, with respect to various hospital characteristics, to help inform emergency physicians and other healthcare professionals for future planning efforts," the report says.

The full CIDRAP news release can be found at:

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/bt/smallpox/news/dec1106bioterrorism.html>

Dec 11 CDC press release on hospital training for terrorist attacks

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/06facts/terrorism2003-04.htm>



Free Personal and Family Pandemic Flu Preparedness Brochure

Preparing for Pandemic Influenza: A Personal and Family Guide is an excellent resource for educating employees about the potential impact of pandemic flu, and giving them the tools and the encouragement to prepare now. Free copies (including delivery) in English and Spanish are available through the Washington State Department of Health Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/panflu/family_brochure.htm

Survey: Hospital Overcrowding Issues Increase Over Last Year, According to Health Care Organization Executives

American College of Emergency Physicians, January 15, 2007

A new survey of top hospital executives, administrators and managers across North America reports that seven out of every eight believe that overcrowding has failed to improve at their facilities in the last year. The overcrowding, according to a majority (60%) of more than 200 survey respondents, continues to force hospitals to divert patients needing urgent medical care to other facilities.

The survey, commissioned last month by TeleTracking Technologies and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), reports more than 80 percent of respondents say overcrowding is one of their top five management concerns. It also reveals that more than 70 percent of the administrators who responded say that while their facilities have a stated goal of admitting patients from their emergency department within two hours of arrival, almost half (48%) fail to meet that goal more than half the time.

The good news, according to the survey results, is that the executives and administrators say they are increasingly optimistic about their organizations' ability to manage the flow of patients through their hospital, to reduce overcrowding and manage costs. An overwhelming majority (94%) said they believe that technology, either by itself or in combination with changes in staff and processes, can reduce overcrowding.

The full report can be found at:

<http://www.acep.org/webportal/Newsroom/NR/general/default.htm>

Training Opportunities

Amateur Radio Technician Licensing Class* **February 3 & 4, 2007 and February 10, 2007**

Presented by: Western WA Medical Services Communications

Location: Group Health Administration – AMB

Cost: \$35.00

For More Information, or to Register: Contact Marina Zuetell at ww7mst@comcast.net or call 206-524-6567



Planning Section Training*

February 12 & 13, 2007 – Situation Unit Leader

February 14 & 15, 2007 – Resource Unit Leader

February 16 & 17, 2007 – Planning Section Chief

**Personnel may attend only the sections relevant to their prospective assignments; however it is recommended that those assigned Planning Section Chief attend all sessions.*

Presented by: Kent Emergency Management

Location: Zone 3, Kent Fire Station #73, 26512 Military Rd. S, Kent

Cost: No Cost

To Register: Contact Dominic Marzano at dmarzano@ci.kent.wa.us

2006 Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Epidemic: Scientific Symposium

February 16, 2007, 9AM to 3:30PM

Presented by: Virginia Mason Medical Center, Harborview Medical Center and Public Health – Seattle and King County

Location: Volney Richmond Auditorium, Virginian Mason Medical Center

Cost: No Cost

To Register: Advanced Registration Required. Please contact Cheryl Hauskins at Cheryl.hauskins@vmmc.org or (206) 223-6165

Evacuation Workshops*

March 27, 2007 (Zone 1 – East County)

March 28, 2007 (Zone 5 – City of Seattle)

March 29, 2007 (Zone 3 – South County)

Presented by: Region 6 Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee

Location: Zone 1 – Overlake Hospital, Zone 5 – Children's Hospital,

Zone 3 – Criminal Justice Training Commission

Cost: No Cost

To Register: Hospitals are registering by teams; please contact your hospital emergency manager for more information. Other organizations may send a representative to the workshop. Please contact Danica Mann at 206-947-5565 or Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org for more information or Lydia Ortega at Lydia.ortega@metrokc.gov to register.

ICS 300 – March 27 to 29, 2007

ICS 400 – April 17 to 18, 2007

Presented by: WA State Emergency Management Division

Location: Camp Murray, WA

Cost: No Cost

For More Information: Contact Jim Harksen at j.harksen@emd.wa.gov or (253) 512-7471

Hospital Incident Command System (HICS)*

April 26 & 27, 2007

Attendees learn how to properly implement HICS into their facility while incorporating critical elements of NIMS. All program content will be presented to "train the trainer".

Presented by: American Society for Healthcare Engineering of the American Hospital Association

Location: Portland, OR

Cost: Starts at \$625

To Register: Visit <https://register.rcsreg.com/regos-1.0/hics2007/ga/index2.html>



Upcoming Conferences

28th Annual International Disaster Management Conference*

February 8-11, 2007

Sponsored by: Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center

Location: Orlando, FL

Cost: Starts at \$320

For More Information: <http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2007.htm>

NDMS – National Disaster Medical System*

March 17 – 21, 2007

Sponsored by: National Disaster Medical System

Location: Nashville, Tennessee

Cost: Unknown

To Register: Currently, registration is by invitation only. Open registration will begin February 16, 2007.

For More Information: <http://www.ndms.chepinc.org/>



2007 Communications Academy

March 31 to April 1, 2007

Sponsored by: Non-profit coalition of volunteer communications teams

Location: Seattle Pacific University

Cost: Starts at \$10

To Register: Registration opens February 15, 2007

For More Information: www.CommAcademy.org

Partners in Emergency Preparedness *

April 10-11, 2007

Location: Tacoma Convention Center

Cost: Starts at \$225

To Register: Registration begins February 16, 2007

For More Information, please call 800-942-4978 or visit:

<http://capps.wsu.edu/emergencyprep>

Surge Capacity Planning for Hospitals *

April 18-20, 2007

Location: Radisson Hotel and Suites, Chicago IL

Cost: Starts at \$895

To Register: Call 800-647-7600 or 781-939-2438

For more information, visit www.worldrg.com

WSHA Conference – *SAVE THE DATE*

June 18 & 19, 2007

Location: Wenatchee, WA

More information will be provided by the Washington State Hospital Association soon

Tribal Emergency Preparedness Conference

July 26-27, 2007

Location: Red Lion Hotel on the River, Portland OR

Cost: No cost

For More Information: Contact Tacey Casey at (503) 416-3267 or tcasey@npaihb.org

Legend:

* Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through HRSA funding

** Indicates course is eligible for reimbursement through Homeland Security funding.

For questions regarding the reimbursement processes, please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org

"Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Disease, Disaster and Bioterrorism, 2006"

Recently, the Trust for America's Health released the report "**Ready or Not 2006.**" The report rates individual states on 10 indicators of public health preparedness and presents a series of recommendations for improvement.

Among the key findings:

- Only 15 states are rated at the highest preparedness level to provide emergency vaccines, antidotes, and medical supplies from the **Strategic National Stockpile**.
- Twenty-five states would **run out of hospital beds** within two weeks of a **moderate pandemic flu outbreak**.
- Forty states face a **shortage of nurses**.
- Rates for **vaccinating seniors for the seasonal flu** decreased in 13 states.
- Eleven states and D.C. lack sufficient capabilities to **test for biological threats**.
- Four states do not **test year-round for the flu**, which is necessary to monitor for a pandemic outbreak.
- Six states cut their **public health budgets** from fiscal year (FY) 2005 to 2006; the median rate for state public health spending is \$31 per person per year.

The report is available at:

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror06>



Notifiable Conditions at your fingertips...

Public Health – Seattle and King County can be right at your fingertips! To get updated epidemiology and communicable disease information, or to quickly access notifiable conditions, download the PHSKC Epidemiology website icon to your desktop. Follow these steps:

1. Close all unnecessary programs on your computer.
2. Minimize all open windows so that only your desktop shows.
3. Open a web browser and go to this website
<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/providers/epidemiology/reporting.htm>
4. Click on the button in the upper right hand corner of your web browser that makes it smaller than the full screen. The button has two small boxes on it and is right next to the "X" button that closes the window.
5. With your desktop showing in the background, place your cursor over the small icon next to the website address near the top of the screen. If you are using Internet Explorer, this icon will be a little "E".
6. Click on this icon and drag it over to your desktop and then release your mouse button. This will create an icon that you can click on anytime to return to this exact website.





RMRC Software Selection Update

The Regional Medical Resource Center (RMRC) released a Request for Proposal in early mid-January for an incident management and resource management software package to assist the health system in responding to an emergency event. Proposals are due from vendors near the end of February. The RMRC Software Selection Workgroup will be voting on the final candidate for this software package, but vendor demos will be open to any community partners who are interested in attending. Attendees who are not on the Software Selection Workgroup will be asked to provide their feedback to the workgroup members in writing and this information will be considered by workgroup members in their final recommendation. If you are interested in attending the demos, please tentatively mark your calendars for April 3, 4, and 5. Times and locations on these days are still to be determined. Thank you for your interest and if you have any questions, please contact Allison Schletzbaum at 206-731-6213 or aschletz@u.washington.edu

Upcoming Exercises

Pandemic Flu Emergency Response Coordination (PERC) Exercise – March 20, 2007

The goal of this exercise is to promote preparedness and coordination of response between jurisdictions, business partners, and community agencies in a long term wide spread pandemic influenza event. More information and details will be available in the next few weeks. For information please email ECC.KC@metrokc.gov.

Cascade Foothills, Functional Exercise – May 30, 2007

This exercise has been postponed due to the recent flooding, snow storm and windstorm. Sponsored by Zone 1 Emergency Management. Zone 1 will activate its Zone Coordination Center (ZCC) in response to a simulated earthquake. Coordination among EOCs will be the primary objective of the exercise. For more information contact Mike Ryan, Zone 1 Emergency Planner at MRyan@ci.bellevue.wa.us

Region 6 Hospital Emergency Response Exercise – May 30, 2007

All hospitals in King County/Region 6 will be participating in an evacuation exercise in May based on an earthquake, with evacuation as the primary focus. Region 6 hospitals will use the exercise to fulfill the HRSA grant exercise requirement. For more information on this exercise please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org

About this Newsletter

This publication will be sent monthly via email. It will be sent on or near the 1st of every month. Please feel free to share resources through this newsletter. To submit information to share or to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, please contact Danica Mann at Danica.mann@overlakehospital.org Thank you!

